



SR1050

LRB098 20713 MST 57923 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to
3 learn of the death of James "Keith" Gibson, Sr.; and

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WHEREAS, Keith Gibson was born to Orville and Ethel Gibson
5 and was raised in the homestead farmhouse built by his
6 grandfather along Dulton Creek off of the Mississippi River
7 near Huron, Iowa; he studied in a one-room schoolhouse and
8 graduated in a class of 8 students; he had a passion for
9 reading and playing baseball; and

10

WHEREAS, At the age of 18, Keith Gibson became a
11 well-known, semi-pro baseball player, playing for the Texaco
12 Fire Chiefs; the legendary Babe Ruth made a trip over to Iowa
13 to watch him and his best friend, Roy Swan, play and they both
14 were invited to the Chicago Cubs spring training camp in the
15 spring of 1940; and

16

WHEREAS, Upon the outbreak of World War II, Keith Gibson
17 and his friend, Roy, put aside their baseball aspirations and
18 joined the United States Navy, with Keith becoming a decorated
19 WWII pilot and the youngest Squadron Patrol Commander in the
20 South Atlantic Fleet; and

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WHEREAS, Keith Gibson married Sara "Sally" Wiens on October

1 19, 1945 while attending the University of Missouri law school;
2 he became an attorney and land developer, developing more than
3 2000 homes including Aurora's Sans Souci, Beau Ridge, Heritage
4 Green, the Aurora Hilton Inn, and 300 apartment units; later in
5 life, he developed an energy machine hoping to help under
6 privileged countries with better energy sources; and

7 WHEREAS, On Keith Gibson's 90th birthday - April 9, 2011 -
8 his hometown of Aurora honored him by declaring it "Keith
9 Gibson Day in Aurora", recognizing his many professional and
10 charitable accomplishments, such as serving as President of the
11 Wayside Cross Mission, President of the Aurora Rotary Club,
12 Trustee/Elder of the First Presbyterian Church, being named
13 "Humanitarian of the Year" by the Kiwanis Club, and being a
14 founding board member of the Parkview Christian Academy of
15 Yorkville, as well as a founding member of Aurora Christian
16 Schools, where he served as long-time director of finance and
17 was a loyal Aurora Christian Eagles fan; and

18 WHEREAS, Keith Gibson and his wife, Sara, had 4 children,
19 Linda (Dudley), Barbara (Neely), Beverly (Aieta), and James,
20 Jr., as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren,
21 whom he loved dearly; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
23 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of

1 James Keith Gibson, Sr., and extend our sincere condolences to
2 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the family of Keith Gibson, Sr. as an expression
6 of our deepest sympathy.